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THE COMBAT EDGE (USPS 0531-170) (ISSN 1063-8970) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY AIR COMBAT COMMAND, HQ ACC/SEM, 175 SWEENEY BLVD, LANGLEY AFB VA 23665-2700. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT NIAGARA FALLS NY 14304, AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. POSTMASTER: PLEASE SEND CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO HQ ACC/SEM, 175 SWEENEY BLVD, LANGLEY AFB, VA 23665

DISTRIBUTION: F. OPR: HQ ACC/SEM. DISTRIBUTION IS BASED ON A RATIO OF ONE COPY PER 10 PERSONS ASSIGNED. AIR FORCE UNITS SHOULD CONTACT THE COMBAT EDGE STAFF TO ESTABLISH OR CHANGE REQUIREMENTS.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: AVAILABLE TO NON-DOD READERS FOR \$51.00 (\$71.40 OUTSIDE THE U.S.) FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS, PO BOX 371954, PITTSBURGH PA 15250-7954. ALL SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE SUPERINTENDENT, NOT HQ ACC/SEM.

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Airmen Supporting Airmen!

Memorial Day is right around the corner and it's time for the Air Force to launch its annual "101 Critical Days of Summer" campaign. Does this mean that we care more about safety during the summer months? Absolutely not. Safety is a year round priority. Unfortunately, it does mean that we lose too many of our airmen to the "hazards" of warmer weather and vacation pursuits. Last year, ACC lost a total of 27 airmen. Nine of those losses -- 33 percent -- occurred between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Why didn't these individuals apply the Operational and Personal Risk Management principles that could have saved their lives? We believe each and every airman in ACC has part of the answer to that question, and that's why we're asking everyone's help in reaching our goal of zero fatalities. Be sure to read this month's feature article which gives more information about our campaign theme: Airmen Supporting Airmen.

There is a lot of concern throughout ACC about our overall safety status. While the weapons community hasn't had any Class A mishaps in the last 4 years, increasing technical data violations over the last 6 months are becoming a trend. So far this year, we have had eight Class A ground mishaps, which resulted in seven fatalities and one permanent disability. We are slightly ahead of last year at this time when we had 11 Class A ground mishaps, which resulted in 11 fatalities, but we can -- and must -- do even better. This same comparison for rate-producing Class A mishaps shows that our numbers have increased from three during the same period last year to five so far this year. Our military assets -- both people and equipment -- are too valuable to lose to complacency, overlooked procedures, haste, fatigue, and lack of planning and responsibility. Each of us is a vital and necessary member of the Air Force family, which has a mission to do: providing combat power for our great nation. If we don't look out for each other and the equipment we work on every day, that mission won't be accomplished. Stories in this issue, such as "And Then There Were Seven," "AGM-88 Slides Into Second," and "Have a Plan," all illustrate what can happen when we lose our focus, get careless, or don't think through a situation before acting.

Decide to survive through the next 101 Critical Days, by taking control of the things you can control: Wear your seat belts, helmets, pads, gloves, face protection, sturdy footwear, protective clothing, life vest or reflective clothing; Don't drink alcohol and then get behind the controls of a vehicle or boat; Observe speed limits and adjust for hazardous road conditions; and Follow tech order procedures. Make safety your Combat Edge over the next 101 days ... Decide to survive and help your fellow Airmen do the same!



Colonel Creid K. Johnson,
ACC Director of Safety